



General Assembly

February Session, 2000

Raised Bill No. 510

LCO No. 2084

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:
(TRA)

***An Act Concerning The Responsibilities Of Motor Vehicle
Wrecker Services And Transporter Registrations.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (91) of subsection (a) of section 14-1 of the
2 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof:

4 (91) "Wrecker" means a vehicle which is registered, designed,
5 equipped and used [exclusively] for the purposes of towing or
6 transporting wrecked or disabled motor vehicles for compensation or
7 for related purposes by a person, firm or corporation licensed in
8 accordance with the provisions of section 14-66, as amended.

9 Sec. 2. Subsection (e) of section 14-150 of the general statutes, as
10 amended by public act 99-27, is repealed and the following is
11 substituted in lieu thereof:

12 (e) Within forty-eight hours of the time that a motor vehicle is taken
13 into custody and stored pursuant to subsection (b) or (c) of this section,
14 [the affixing department] or pursuant to the provisions of section 14-

15 307, as amended, the operator of the wrecker responsible for the tow or
16 removal and for placing the vehicle in storage shall give written notice
17 by certified mail to the owner of such motor vehicle, if known, which
18 notice shall state (1) that the motor vehicle has been taken into custody
19 and stored, (2) the location of storage of the motor vehicle, (3) that,
20 unless title has already vested in the municipality pursuant to
21 subsection (d), such motor vehicle may be sold after fifteen days if the
22 market value of such motor vehicle does not exceed one thousand five
23 hundred dollars or after forty-five days if the value of such motor
24 vehicle exceeds one thousand five hundred dollars, and (4) that the
25 owner has a right to contest the validity of such taking by application,
26 on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, to the
27 hearing officer named in such notice within ten days from the date of
28 such notice. Such application forms shall be made readily available to
29 the public at all offices of the Department of Motor Vehicles and at all
30 state and local police departments.

31 Sec. 3. Subsection (g) of section 14-150 of the general statutes, as
32 amended by public act 99-27, is repealed and the following is
33 substituted in lieu thereof:

34 (g) The owner or keeper of any garage or other place where such
35 motor vehicle is stored shall have a lien upon the same for such
36 owner's or keeper's storage charges. Unless title has already vested in
37 the municipality pursuant to subsection (d), if the current market value
38 of such motor vehicle as determined in good faith by such owner or
39 keeper does not exceed one thousand five hundred dollars and such
40 motor vehicle has been stored for a period of not less than fifteen days,
41 such owner or keeper may, unless an application filed by the owner
42 pursuant to subsection (d) of this section is pending and the owner of
43 such motor vehicle has notified such owner or keeper that such
44 application for hearing has been filed, sell the same for storage and
45 towing charges owed thereon, provided a notice of intent to sell shall
46 be sent to the commissioner and the owner of such motor vehicle, if
47 known, five days before the sale of such vehicle. If the current market

48 value of such motor vehicle as determined in good faith by such owner
49 or keeper exceeds one thousand five hundred dollars and if such
50 motor vehicle has been so stored for a period of forty-five days, such
51 owner or keeper shall, unless an application filed by the owner
52 pursuant to subsection (d) of this section is pending and the owner of
53 such motor vehicle has notified such owner or keeper that such
54 application for hearing has been filed, sell the same at public auction
55 for cash, at such owner's or keeper's place of business, and apply the
56 avails of such sale toward the payment of such owner's or keeper's
57 charges and the payment of any debt or obligation incurred by the
58 officer who placed the same in storage, provided such sale shall be
59 advertised in a newspaper published or having a circulation in the
60 town where such garage or other place is located three times,
61 commencing at least five days before such sale; and, if the last place of
62 abode of the owner of such motor vehicle is known to or may be
63 ascertained by such garage owner or keeper by the exercise of
64 reasonable diligence, notice of the time and place of sale shall be given
65 to such owner by mailing such notice to such owner in a registered or
66 certified letter, postage paid, at such last usual place of abode, at least
67 five days before the time of sale. At any public auction held pursuant
68 to this subsection, such garage owner or keeper may set a minimum
69 bid equal to the amount of its charges and obligations with respect to
70 the tow and storage of the motor vehicle. If no such bid is made, such
71 owner or keeper may sell or dispose of such vehicle.

72 Sec. 4. Section 20-340 of the general statutes, as amended by section
73 5 of public act 99-170 and section 6 of public act 99-256, is repealed and
74 the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

75 The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to: (1) Persons
76 employed by any federal, state or municipal agency; (2) employees of
77 any public service company regulated by the Department of Public
78 Utility Control or of any corporate affiliate of any such company when
79 the work performed by such affiliate is on behalf of a public service
80 company, but in either case only if the work performed is in

81 connection with the rendition of public utility service, including the
82 installation or maintenance of wire for community antenna television
83 service, or is in connection with the installation or maintenance of wire
84 or telephone sets for single-line telephone service located inside the
85 premises of a consumer; (3) employees of any municipal corporation
86 specially chartered by this state; (4) employees of any contractor while
87 such contractor is performing electrical-line or emergency work for
88 any public service company; (5) persons engaged in the installation,
89 maintenance, repair and service of electrical or other appliances of a
90 size customarily used for domestic use where such installation
91 commences at an outlet receptacle or connection previously installed
92 by persons licensed to do the same and maintenance, repair and
93 service is confined to the appliance itself and its internal operation; (6)
94 employees of industrial firms whose main duties concern the
95 maintenance of the electrical work, plumbing and piping work, solar
96 work, heating, piping, cooling work, sheet metal work, elevator
97 installation, repair and maintenance work, automotive glass work or
98 flat glass work of such firm on its own premises or on premises leased
99 by it for its own use; (7) the fabrication of glass products or electrical,
100 plumbing and piping, fire protection sprinkler systems, solar, heating,
101 piping, cooling, sheet metal or elevator installation, repair and
102 maintenance equipment used in the production of goods sold by
103 industrial firms; (8) persons performing work necessary to the
104 manufacture or repair of any apparatus, appliances, fixtures,
105 equipment or devices produced by it for sale or lease; (9) employees of
106 stage and theatrical companies performing the operation, installation
107 and maintenance of electrical equipment if such installation
108 commences at an outlet receptacle or connection previously installed
109 by persons licensed to make such installation; (10) employees of
110 carnivals, circuses or similar transient amusement shows who install
111 electrical work, provided such installation shall be subject to the
112 approval of the State Fire Marshal prior to use as otherwise provided
113 by law and shall comply with applicable municipal ordinances and
114 regulations; (11) persons engaged in the installation, maintenance,

115 repair and service of glass or electrical, plumbing, fire protection
116 sprinkler systems, solar, heating, piping, cooling and sheet metal
117 equipment in and about single-family residences owned and occupied
118 or to be occupied by such persons; provided any such installation,
119 maintenance and repair shall be subject to inspection and approval by
120 the building official of the municipality in which such residence is
121 located and shall conform to the requirements of the State Building
122 Code; (12) persons who install, maintain or repair glass in a motor
123 vehicle owned or leased by such persons; (13) persons or entities
124 holding themselves out to be retail sellers of glass products, but not
125 such persons or entities that also engage in automotive glass work or
126 flat glass work; (14) persons who install preglazed or preassembled
127 windows or doors in residential or commercial buildings; [and] (15)
128 persons registered under chapter 400 who install safety-backed mirror
129 products or repair or replace flat glass in sizes not greater than thirty
130 square feet in residential buildings; and (16) any person, firm or
131 corporation licensed as a dealer or repairer pursuant to section 14-52.

132 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 14-35 of the general statutes is
133 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

134 (b) (1) The applicant shall, instead of registering each motor vehicle
135 owned by him or temporarily in his custody, have issued to him by the
136 commissioner a general distinguishing number. Thereupon, each
137 motor vehicle owned by the applicant or temporarily in his custody
138 shall be regarded as registered under and having assigned to it the
139 distinguishing number. (2) [The commissioner shall charge a fee at the
140 rate of fifty-one dollars per annum for each number plate furnished for
141 use on passenger motor vehicles or house trailers. On and after July 1,
142 1992, the fee shall be fifty-eight dollars. (3)] The commissioner shall
143 charge a fee at the rate of one hundred fourteen dollars per annum for
144 each number plate furnished for use on trucks or other motor vehicles
145 with a commercial registration. [On and after July 1, 1992, the fee shall
146 be one hundred fourteen dollars.]

Statement of Purpose:

To amend the definition of "wrecker", clarify responsibilities of licensed wreckers when giving notice to owners of towed vehicles, exempt licensed motor vehicle dealers and repairers from a DCP occupational license to perform automobile glass and flat glass work and eliminate the transporter registration for passenger motor vehicles.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]